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**virile** (vîr'îl, -îl') *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or having the characteristics of an adult male. 2. Having or showing masculine spirit, strength, vigor, or power. See Synonyms at **male**. 3. Capable of performing sexually as a male; potent. [Middle English, from Old French *viril*, from Latin *virilis*, from *vir*, man. See *wi-* in Appendix.]

**virilism** (vîr'îl'îz'ëm) *n.* The presence of male secondary sexual characteristics in a female.

**virility** (vâr'îl'î-të) *n.* 1. The quality or state of being virile; manly character. 2. Masculine vigor; potency.

**virilization** (vîr'îl'î-zâ'shën) *n.* Development of male secondary sexual characteristics. —*virilize* (-âl'îz') *v.*

**virion** (vîr'î-ôñ', vîr'ë-n) *n.* A complete viral particle, consisting of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein shell and constituting the infective form of a virus. [VIR(US) + -ON<sup>1</sup>.]

**viro-** or **vir-** *pref.* Virus: *virogenesis*. [From **VIRUS**.]

**virogene** (vîr'â-jëñ') *n.* A gene capable of specifying the synthesis of a virus in a cell.

**virogenesis** (vîr'ô-jëñ'-ësës, -rës) *n.*, *pl.* -*ses* (-sëz'). Production or formation of a virus. —*virogenetic* (-jëñ'-ik) *adj.*

**viroid** (vîr'ôïd') *n.* An infectious particle, similar to but smaller than a virus, that consists solely of a strand of RNA and is capable of causing disease in plants.

**virology** (vîr'ôl'ë-jë) *n.* The study of viruses and viral diseases. —*virologist* (vîr'ô-lôj'ëst) *n.*

**virosis** (vîr'ô-sës) *n.*, *pl.* -*ses* (-sëz). A disease caused by a virus.

**virtu** (vâr-tôö', vîr-) also **ver-tu** (vâr-) *n.* 1. A knowledge or love of or taste for fine objects of art. 2. Production of objects of art, especially fine antique objets d'art. [Italian *virtù*, virtue, *virtu*, from Latin *virtus*, excellence, virtue. See **VIRTUE**.]

**virtual** (vûr'chôö-äl) *adj.* 1. Existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form, or name: *the virtual extinction of the buffalo*. 2. Existing in the mind, especially as a product of the imagination. Used in literary criticism of text. [Middle English *virtual*, effective, from Medieval Latin *virtuális*, from Latin *virtus*, excellence. See **VIRTUE**.] —*virtual* (-äl'î-të) *n.*

**virtual focus** *n.* The point from which divergent rays of reflected or refracted light seem to have emanated, as from the image of a point in a plane mirror.

**virtual image** *n.* An image from which rays of reflected or refracted light appear to diverge, as from an image seen in a plane mirror.

**virtuality** (vûr'chôö-ä-lë) *adv.* 1. In fact or to all purposes; practically. 2. Almost but not quite; nearly.

**virtual machine** *n.* Computer Science. A computer designed to replicate copies of its entire hardware-software interface so that two operating systems can be run on a single computer.

**virtual memory** *n.* Computer Science. Computer memory, separate from the main memory of a specific machine, that can be used as an extension of the machine's main memory.

**virtual reality** *n.* Computer Science. A computer simulation of a real or imaginary system that enables a user to perform operations on the simulated system and shows the effects in real time.

**virtue** (vûr'chôö) *n.* 1. *a.* Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness. *b.* An example or kind of moral excellence: *the virtue of patience*. 2. Chastity, especially in a girl or woman. 3. A particularly efficacious, good, or beneficial quality; advantage: *a plan with the virtue of being practical*. 4. Effective force or power: *believed in the virtue of prayer*. 5. **virtues**. Theology. The fifth of the nine orders of angels. 6. Obsolete. Manly courage; valor. —*idiom. by* (or *in*) **virtue of**. On the grounds or basis of; by reason of: *well off by virtue of a large inheritance*. [Middle English *vertu*, from Old French, from Latin *virtus*, manliness, excellence, goodness, from *vir*, man. See **viro-** in Appendix.]

**virtuoso** (vûr'chôö-ô'së, -zë) *n.* A woman who is a virtuoso. [Italian, feminine of *virtuoso*, virtuoso. See **VIRTUOSO**.]

**virtuosity** (vûr'chôö-ôs'ë-të) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties*. 1. The technical skill, fluency, or style exhibited by a virtuoso. 2. An appreciation for or interest in fine objects of art.

**virtuoso** (vûr'chôö-ô'së, -zë) *n.*, *pl.* -*sos* or -*si* (-së). 1. A musician with masterly ability, technique, or personal style. 2. A person with masterly skill or technique in the arts. 3. A person who experiments or investigates in the arts and sciences; a savant.

—**virtuoso** *adj.* Exhibiting the ability, technique, or personal style of a virtuoso: *a virtuoso performance*. [Italian, skilled, of great worth, *virtuoso*, from Late Latin *virtuösus*, virtuous, from Latin *virtus*, excellence. See **VIRTUE**.] —*virtuoso* (-ô'sik, -zïk) *adj.* —*virtuoso* (-ô'sik, -zïk) *adv.*

**virtuous** (vûr'chôö-ôs) *adj.* 1. Having or showing virtue, especially moral excellence: *led a virtuous life*. 2. Possessing or characterized by chastity; pure: *a virtuous woman*. See Synonyms at **moral**. —*virtuous* (-ô'sik) *adv.* —*virtuousness* *n.*

**vi·ru·cide** (vîr'ü-sîd') *n.* Variant of **viricide**.

**virulent** (vîr'ü-lënt, vîr'ë-n) *adj.* 1. *a.* Extremely infectious, malignant, or poisonous. Used of a disease or toxin. *b.* Capable of causing disease by breaking down protective mechanisms of the

hateful: *virulent criticism*. See Synonyms at **poisonous**. 3. Intensely irritating, obnoxious, or harsh. [Middle English, from Latin *virulentus*, from *virus*, poison.] —*virulence*, *virulent* (-ëns) *n.* —*virulent* (-ëns) *adv.*

**viruliferous** (vîr'ü-lîf'ër-ës, vîr'ë-n) *adj.* Carrying or containing a virus. [VIRUL(ENCE) + -FEROUS.]

**virus** (vîr'ës) *n.*, *pl.* -*rus·es*. 1. *a.* Any of various simple submicroscopic parasites of plants, animals, and bacteria that often cause disease and that consist essentially of a core of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein coat. Unable to replicate without a host cell, viruses are typically not considered living organisms. *b.* A disease caused by a virus. 2. Something that poisons one's soul or mind: *the pernicious virus of racism*. 3. Computer Science. A computer virus. [Latin *virus*, poison.]

**Vis** (vîs) *n.* An island of western Yugoslavia off the Dalmatian coast south-southwest of Split. Major naval battles occurred off the island in 1811 and 1866. In the first, the British defeated the French; in the second, the Austrians defeated the Italians.

**Vis**, *abbr.* 1. Visibility. 2. Visual.

**Vis**, *abbr.* 1. Viscount. 2. Viscountess.

**visa** (vî'zâ) *n.* An official authorization appended to a passport, permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region. —*visa* *tr.v.* -*saed*, -*saing*, -*sas*. 1. To endorse or ratify (a passport). 2. To give a visa to. [French, short for Latin (*carta*) *visa*, (the document has been) seen, from feminine past participle of *videre*, to see. See **weid-** in Appendix.]

**visage** (vîz'ëj) *n.* 1. The face or facial expression of a person; countenance. See Synonyms at **face**. 2. Appearance; aspect: *the bleak visage of winter*. [Middle English, from Old French, from *vis*, from Latin *vîsus*, appearance, from past participle of *videre*, to see. See **weid-** in Appendix.]

**Vi·sa·kha·pat·nam** (vî-sâ'ka-püt'näm) or **Vi·sha·kha·pat·nam** (-shâ'-) also **Vi·za·ga·pa·tam** (vî-zâ'ga-püt'äm). A city of eastern India on the Bay of Bengal northeast of Madras. Established by the English as a trading post in 1683, it is a health resort and processing center with a protected harbor and shipping facilities. Population, 565,321.

**Vi·sa·lia** (vî-sâ'lëë) *n.* A city of south-central California southeast of Fresno. Agricultural products of the San Joaquin Valley are important to its economy. Population, 49,729.

**visard** (vîz'ërd, -ärd') *n.* Variant of **vizard**.

**vis-à-vis** (vî'zâ-vë') *prep.* 1. Face to face with; opposite to. 2. Compared with. 3. In relation to. —*vis-à-vis* *n.*, *pl.* *vis-à-vis* (-vëz', -vët'). 1. One that is face to face with or opposite to another. 2. A date or an escort, as at a party. 3. One that has the same functions and characteristics as another; a counterpart. [French : *vis*, face + *à*, to.] —*vis-à-vis* *adj.*

**Vi·sa·yan** (vî-si'ën) *n.* 1. A member of the largest ethnic group indigenous to the Philippines, found in the Visayan Islands.

2. The Austronesian language of the Visayans. —*Vi·sayan* *adj.*

**Visayan Islands**. An island group of the central Philippines in and around the **Visayan Sea** between Luzon and Mindanao.

**Visby** (vîz'bë, vës'bë). A city of southeast Sweden on western Gotland Island on the Baltic Sea. It was a member of the Hanseatic League and a commercial center from the 10th to the 14th century but declined after its capture by the Danes in 1362. Visby was a pirate stronghold for the next two centuries and passed to Sweden in 1645. Population, 20,100.

**vis·ca·cha** (vî-skâ'cha) *n.* Any of several gregarious, burrowing South American rodents of the genera *Lagostomus* and *LAGIDium*, related to and resembling the chinchilla. [Spanish *vizcacha*, from Quechua *wiskâcha*.]

**vis·cer·a** (vîs'ër-ë) *pl.n.* 1. The soft internal organs of the body, especially those contained within the abdominal and thoracic cavities. 2. The intestines. [Latin *viscera*, pl. of *viscus*.]

**vis·cer·al** (vîs'ër-äl) *adj.* 1. Relating to, situated in, or affecting the viscera. 2. Perceived in or as if in the viscera; profound. 3. Instinctive; *visceral needs*. See Synonyms at **instinctive**. —*visceral* (-ërl) *adv.*

**vis·cer·o·mo·tor** (vîs'ër-ë-mô'tër) *adj.* Producing or related to movements of the viscera.

**vis·cid** (vîs'ëd) *adj.* 1. Thick and adhesive. Used of a fluid. 2. Covered with a sticky or clammy coating. [Late Latin *viscidus*, from Latin *viscum*, mistletoe, birdlime made from mistletoe berries.] —*viscid* (-ëns) *n.* —*viscidly* *adv.*

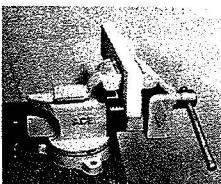
**vis·com·e·ter** (vî-sköm'ë-tër) *n.* An instrument used to measure viscosity. Also called **viscosimeter**. [Short for **viscosimeter**.] —*visco·met·ric* (vîs'kë-mët'rik) *adj.* —*visco·met·ry* *n.*

**Vis·con·ti** (vîs-kôn'të, vës-kôn'-), **Gian Galeazzo**, 1351-1402. Milanese leader who conquered Siena (1399), Perugia (1400), and Bologna (1402) and was a noted patron of the arts.

**vis·cose** (vîs'kës) *n.* 1. A thick, golden-brown viscous solution of cellulose xanthate, used in the manufacture of rayon and cellophane. 2. Viscose rayon. —**viscose** *adj.* 1. Viscous. 2. Of, relating to, or made from viscose. [VISC(OUS) + -OSE<sup>2</sup>. Adj. sense 1, Middle English, viscous, from Late Latin *viscosus*, from Latin *viscum*, mistletoe, birdlime made from mistletoe berries.]

**viscose rayon** *n.* A rayon made by reconverting cellulose from a soluble xanthate form to tough fibers by washing in acid.

**visco·sim·e·ter** (vîs'kë-sim'ë-tër) *n.* See **viscosimeter**.



vise



Vishnu

Tenth-century bronze